

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON SETTLEMENTS

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN NEW YORK TIMES
JANUARY 31: "ISRAEL IS SAID TO HAVE ALTERED DAYAN PLEDGE
TO CARTER ON SETTLEMENTS" BY TERENCE SMITH
- "WASHINGTON, JAN. 30 - PRESIDENT CARTER WAS ASSURED LAST
SEPTEMBER BY FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN OF ISRAEL THAT
NO NEW ISRAELI CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED
IN OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY FOR A YEAR, SENIOR GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS SAID TODAY.

- LATER, TO THE IRRITATION OF POLICY MAKERS AT THE WHITE
HOUSE, ISRAEL REDEFINED THIS COMMITMENT TO APPLY JUST TO
THE YEAR 1977, OR FOR ONLY FOUR MONTHS AFTER IT WAS FIRST
GIVEN.

- THE RESULT WAS TO LEAVE WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS DISMAYED
AND UNCERTAIN ABOUT ISRAEL'S REAL INTENTIONS ON FUTURE
SETTLEMENTS, WHICH THE UNITED STATES REGARDS AS ILLEGAL
AND DISRUPTIVE TO THE CURRENT EFFORTS TO GET ISRAELI-EGYPT-
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IAN PEACE TALKS BACK ON TRACK.

- REFLECTING THIS CONCERN AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE TODAY,
PRESIDENT CARTER REITERATED THE AMERICAN OPPOSITION TO THE
70-ODD SETTLEMENTS THAT ISRAEL HAS ESTABLISHED IN THE ARAB
TERRITORIES CAPTURED IN 1967.

- SHILOH SETTLEMENT IS CITED

- HE ALSO SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE LATEST ATTEMPT BY ULTRANATIONALIST ISRAELIS TO ESTABLISH A NEW SETTLEMENT AT THE ANCIENT BIBLICAL SITE OF SHILOH HAD NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN.

- A TOTAL OF 25 ISRAELI FAMILIES AFFILIATED WITH THE GUSH EMUNIM, OR FAITH BLOC, MOVED INTO AN ARCHEOLOGICAL CAMP AT SHILOH LAST WEEK AND PROMPTLY ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO SETTLE. THE SITE IS IN THE HEART OF THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN.

- IN RESPONSE TO NEWS REPORTS ABOUT THE LATEST SETTLEMENT ATTEMPT LAST WEEK, MR. CARTER SENT MR. BEGIN A MESSAGE SAYING THAT "I DEEPLY REGRET" THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPRESSING HIS CONFIDENCE THAT MR. BEGIN "WILL HONOR THE COMMITMENT MADE PERSONALLY TO ME, AND THUS WILL NOT PERMIT THIS SETTLEMENT TO GO FORWARD."

- MR. CARTER SAID TODAY THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED AN ANSWER FROM MR. BEGIN. BUT HE SAID HIS UNDERSTANDING OF ISRAEL'S POSITION WAS THAT "NO NEW SETTLEMENTS WOULD BE AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT, THAT ANY INCREASE IN SETTLERS WOULD BE AN EXPANSION OF EXISTING SETTLEMENTS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE"

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WITHIN THE AEGIS OF THE MILITARY."

- ON A RELATED QUESTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST, MR. CARTER SAID HE WOULD DECIDE LATER THIS WEEK, BASED ON A REPORT BEING PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, WHETHER TO GRANT REQUESTS FOR ARMS SUBMITTED BY ISRAEL, SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER ARAB NATIONS.

- WHEN PRESIDENT ANWAR EL-SADAT OF EGYPT ARRIVES HERE THIS WEEKEND FOR TALKS WITH MR. CARTER, HE IS EXPECTED TO REPEAT HIS PROPOSAL, OUTLINED IN A SPEECH 10 DAYS AGO, THAT EGYPT BE GIVEN THE SAME ARMAMENTS AS ISRAEL.

- MR. CARTER'S COMMENTS ON THE PROSPECT OF NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES REFLECTED THE WIDESPREAD CONCERN THAT PREVAILS AMONG ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ABOUT THE ISSUE. NO SINGLE QUESTION HAS BEEN AS DIVISIVE AND DIFFICULT IN AMERICAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS

IN THE DECADE SINCE THE 1967 WAR AS ISRAEL'S DETERMINATION TO ESTABLISH CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND WEST BANK AND IN NORTHERN SINAI.

- FOUR SUCCESSIVE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE OPPOSED THE SETTLEMENTS AS OBSTACLES TO A PEACE AGREEMENT, BUT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS PRESSED THE ISSUE MORE FORCEFULLY THAN ITS PREDECESSORS.

- EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO MR. BEGIN LAST WEEK, WELL-PLACED OFFICIALS SAID THAT MR. CARTER HAD BEEN DISMAYED LAST JULY WHEN MR. BEGIN RETURNED HOME FROM A VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND PROMPTLY LEGALIZED THREE PREVIOUSLY UNAUTHORIZED SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK.

- WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN MET WITH MR. CARTER IN UNCLASSIFIED

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SEPTEMBER, THE OFFICIALS SAID, HE BROUGHT AN ISRAELI PLEDGE THAT NO NEW CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR A YEAR. NEW SETTLERS MIGHT BE ADDED TO EXISTING SETTLEMENTS, HE REPORTEDLY SAID, AND SOME CIVILIAN SETTLERS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO MOVE INTO EIGHT DESIGNATED MILITARY CAMPS ON THE WEST BANK UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE ARMY, BUT NO NEW CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS WOULD BE CREATED, BECAUSE OF CONCERN FOR THE IMPACT THEY MIGHT HAVE ON PEACE TALKS.

- THE CURRENT POPULATION OF THE WEST BANK HAS BEEN PUT AT 650,000 ARABS AND FEWER THAN 10,000 JEWS.

- THE ADMINISTRATION BEGAN TO HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT THE ISRAELI PLEDGE EARLIER THIS MONTH, WHEN THERE WERE CONFLICTING REPORTS OF NEW SETTLEMENTS BEING ESTABLISHED IN THE RAFAH REGION OF NORTHERN SINAI. AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS REPORTED FROM THE SCENE THAT BULLDOZERS WERE AT WORK CLEARING NEW LAND, BUT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT MAINTAINED THAT ONLY "THICKENING" OF THE EXISTING SETTLEMENTS WAS UNDER WAY.

- WHEN IT INQUIRED ABOUT THE VIABILITY OF MR. DAYAN'S PLEDGE, OFFICIALS SAID, THE ADMINISTRATION WAS ADVISED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD BEEN REFERRING TO THE YEAR 1977, NOT A YEAR FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING WITH MR. CARTER.

- IT WAS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT MR. CARTER RESPONDED SO PROMPTLY TO THE REPORTS LAST WEEK OF THE NEW SETTLEMENT AT SHILOH.

- "SHILOH IS IMPORTANT AS A SYMBOL OF ISRAELI INTENTIONS," UNCLASSIFIED

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AN ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL SAID TODAY. "WE REALIZE THAT
BEGIN HAS POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH THE RIGHT WING IN HIS
COUNTRY, BUT GOING AHEAD WITH A NEW SETTLEMENT NOW, AU-
THORIZED OR UNAUTHORIZED, CAN ONLY COMPLICATE THE PEACE-
MAKING EFFORT." VANCE

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